

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 and 5-36 are pending in the above-identified application.

All of the above-noted changes to the claims are completely proper under 37 C.F.R. 1.116, since all of the presently amended claims recite allowable subject matter according to the Final Office Action of November 2, 2004. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended by inserting the allowable subject matter of claim 4 thereinto; and new claim 20 includes the subject matter of the combination of allowable claim 7 combined with claim 1. All other pending claims depend from either allowable amended claim 1 or new allowable claim 20. Therefore, no new issues have been raised and all of the claims have been placed into better form such that all of these amendments should be entered of record pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.116.

Allowable Claims

Claims 4, 7, 8 and 14 were indicated as being in allowable form and were merely objected to as depending from rejected base claims. As noted immediately above, claim 4 has been inserted into claim 1, and new claim 20 constitutes the combination of allowable claim 7 combined with claim 1. Therefore, all of the presently pending claims are in allowable form.

Issues Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 9-13 and 15-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim '828 (USP 5,184,828).

Claims 3 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim '828 in view of Hanada '537 (USP 4,483,537).

Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim '828 in view of Horiuchi '312 (USP 5,702,312).

The bases for all of the above-noted rejections have been removed in view of the incorporation of allowable claim 4 into claim 1. No new bases for any rejections have arisen, since new claims 20-36 all include the allowable subject matter of claim 7.

Conclusion

It is submitted for the reasons stated above that the present claims define patentable subject matter such that this application should now be placed into condition for allowance.

If any questions arise regarding the above matters, please contact Applicant's representative, Andrew D. Meikle (Reg. No. 32,868), in the Washington Metropolitan Area at the phone number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 

Andrew D. Merkle, #32,868

ADM:gmh
0020-4699P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

Attachment(s)